

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method of processing diverse rich media content, comprising the steps of:

combining a plurality of diverse rich media content into a single multimedia content file for use as a first input to an authoring tool;

creating a first extensible markup language (XML) based textual specification for use as a second input to the authoring tool, wherein the first XML-based textual specification comprises a user-specified vocabulary that defines one or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content;

combining the single multimedia content file and the first XML-based textual specification in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary and using the authoring tool to create a composed multimedia content file for execution on a multimedia player, wherein the composed multimedia content file is combined with at least one of an additional XML-based textual specification and an additional graphical edit of the plurality of diverse rich media content;

editing the plurality of diverse rich media content using a graphical authoring tool;

creating a second XML-based textual specification for the graphically edited diverse rich media content; and storing the composed multimedia content file and the second XML-based textual specification for access by one or more content creators.

2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

editing at least one of the first and second XML-based textual specification by a user using a text editor.

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of creating at least one of the first and second XML-based textual specification further comprises the step of:

using an XML program to create at least one of the first and second XML-based textual specification.

4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of combining the single multimedia content file and the first XML-based textual specification further comprises the step of:
executing a batch processing program to combine the single multimedia content file and the first XML-based textual specification.

5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
downloading the composed multimedia content file for display to a user in an application.

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file further comprises the step of:
generating the streaming digital file as a sequence of frames.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file further comprises the step of:
generating the streaming digital file as a binary file using a HotMedia format.

11. through 28. (Canceled).